

facts are known, when the choices open to the University are clearly seen, and when the University's actual policies and decisions are clearly presented, much alumni discontent disappears.

President Bowen recently said that, "I ask only that our alumni view our actions and our decisions in the context of the real world in which we live," and we strongly concur. It is important to see changes at Princeton in relation to the realistic alternatives and to the changing nature and the changing needs of the larger society that the University exists to serve. We are convinced that if Princeton had not changed as much as it has, in the directions it has, and as quickly as it has it would not be as able as it clearly is to develop ideas and people capable of meeting a changing world's present and future needs.

We think most alumni feel the same way. However unsettling change may be to one's nostalgic recollection of college days, we are confident that it is on Princeton's growing ability to meet present and future challenges that the loyalty, respect, and support of its alumni over the longer term will certainly depend.

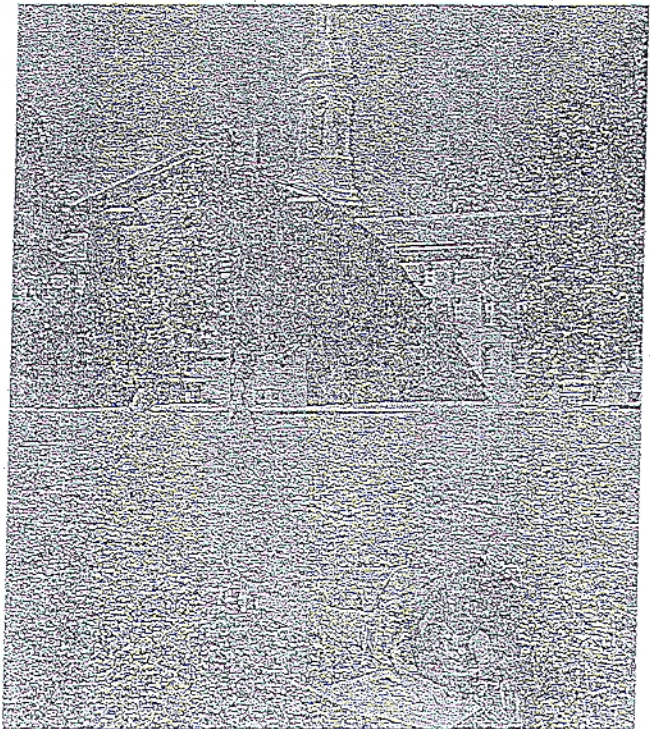
Just as Princeton seeks to influence the world in which it functions so it is influenced by it, and therefore it is unrealistic to expect the University to remain untouched by changes in society as a whole. This is not to suggest that unwelcome events or behavior on campus should be excused because they occur elsewhere. It does imply, however, that these events should be seen against the background of trends in the larger society, and that it is useful to compare what has happened at Princeton with what has happened elsewhere.

For instance, most alumni, and certainly members of the Board, were disturbed when anti-war protests in the late 1960's and 1970 disrupted some aspects of University life. But Princeton could not have been insulated from the national passions of those years, and when we compare the protests at Princeton with those on other campuses we conclude that Princeton dealt with its share of that turmoil with a remarkable combination of understanding, compassion, and firmness. Moreover, we think that the University emerged from those trying times with its prospects for the future improved rather than diminished, with its fundamental purposes and principles intact, and with none of the bitter aftermath that was the lot of others. In no small measure, this was possible because of the generally responsible attitude of the Princeton student body and because of Princeton's enduring sense of community.

The problems of providing alumni with a balanced view of Princeton and of keeping them well and accurately informed are made considerably more difficult by the organization, Concerned Alumni of Princeton.

A group called Alumni Committee to Involve Ourselves Now (ACTION) was founded in 1969 in re-

It was organized to protest what it described as a "headlong rush" into coeducation and, among other things, to advocate an alumni poll on the subject. It also expressed its views on numerous University issues including the Kelley Report (on University governance), ROTC, the curriculum, and University social alternatives.



In the fall of 1972, the Concerned Alumni of Princeton (CAP) and its publication *Prospect* emerged. It included in its sponsors some of the alumni who had been active with ACTION; it spoke to some extent for the same group in the alumni body. It was obviously well financed and it had the services of a full-time editor on the scene who could write of events and happenings at Princeton with an air of authenticity.

Since 1972, CAP has published 34 issues of *Prospect* magazine, and has prepared and circulated at least 10 pamphlets on issues affecting the University and at least 7 solicitations for funds.

It should be noted that a number of CAP's leaders and supporters are individuals who have been interested in the affairs of the University in the past; in other words, its supporters are not recruited from apathetic alumni. They wish to play a role in connection with the University and to influence the course of the University.

At the same time, it is clear that the manner in which CAP has pursued its aims has been harmful to the University in a variety of ways. Whatever CAP's broad purposes may be, the fact is that the CAP publications have presented a distorted, narrow, and hostile view of the University that cannot help but have misinformed and even alarmed many alumni.

Princeton Report to the Trustee Committee on Alumni

of the recommendations that the University and the Alumni Council make an effort to learn more about the alumni body, especially about major areas of knowledge, experience and interest among the alumni. This would not only help the University to communicate more ef-

fectively, but also serve and more fully involve its alumni. One method for accomplishing this goal at modest cost might be through the questionnaires that generally are distributed to major reunion classes.

Respectfully submitted,

October 1975

STEPHEN AILES '33, Chairman
FRANKLIN E. AGNEW III '56, Vice Chairman
ROBERT G. ABERNETHY '49
WARD B. CHAMBERLIN, JR. '43
★ WILLIAM H. FRIST '74
JOHN N. IRWIN II '37
WILLIAM E. MARITZ '50
S. BARKSDALE PENICK '25
ERIC L. RICHARD '72
SUSAN S. SPEERS

Ex Officio

GEORGE FAUNCE III '47, Chairman, Alumni Council
DONALD P. DICKSON '49, Vice Chairman, Alumni Council
FREDERICK L. REDPATH '39, Former Chairman, Alumni Council (term ended 6/30/75)

